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## **Sen. George hosts Senate Education Committee to hear local views on graduation requirements**

**LANSING** — Sen. Tom George announced today that he will host the Senate Education Committee on Feb. 20 in Kalamazoo to listen to the views of residents about proposed high school graduation requirements.

“Because this is such an important change to our state’s educational system, I welcome everyone to come and offer their thoughts on the proposal,” said George, R-Texas Township. “There are many good things about the concept but I want to hear more from parents, educators and others before making up my mind.”

The hearing will begin at from 10:30 a.m. Monday, at the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, 1819 E. Milham Road, in Kalamazoo.

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and State Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require students to take certain courses and a certain number of years, or equivalent credit, in different subjects:

- Four of English;
- Four of math, including Algebra I and II, and geometry;
- Three of science, including a year of biology, and either physics or chemistry;
- Three of social science, including half-year each of civics and economics, and a year each of U.S. and world history;
- Two of foreign language;
- One of health and physical education; and,
- One of visual or performing arts.

Michigan is among a handful of states that have minimal statewide graduation requirements. In Michigan, graduation requirements are left to local school boards.

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